

Medical Aid

Existing ceiling raised by Rs. 370/- p.a. for employees. The proposed ceiling of annual medical will be as under:—

- (i) Service upto 5 years Rs. 870/- p.a.
- (ii) Service above 5 years Rs. 1070/- p.a.

Conveyance allowance

Rs. 100/- p.m. to clerical and subordinate staff

Special Allowance

Existing Special Allowance enhanced by 20% DA payable on special allowances.

SOME IMPORTANT MANAGEMENT ISSUES

1. Functions of special allowance carrying posts have been substantially enhanced—Monetary limits for handling independently transactions involving cash/cheques, instruments, etc. more than doubled in most cases.

2. Statement of the unions exhorting members for all out efforts for better customer service.

3. Resorting to restrictive practices as also misbehaviour towards customers to be deemed as misconduct attracting disciplinary action.

4. Contesting elections without explicit written permission, to be deemed as gross misconduct.

5. Misbehaviour towards customers shall tantamount to gross misconduct attracting disciplinary action.

Rehabilitation Package for Sick Industries

1598. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) is evolving a new system for the rehabilitation of sick industries;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof;

(c) whether any assessment has been made on the working of the BIFR and its role in the rehabilitation of sick industries, particularly in the context of many companies opting for BIFR coverage in order to get financial concessions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) does not arise.

(c) and (d) BIFR has reported that revival schemes sanctioned by it incorporate an implementation schedule, the adherence to which is reviewed within 2-3 months of sanctioning the scheme so as to ensure that the required preliminary action is set in motion and the implementation takes off. Companies implementing revival schemes are required to send periodical progress report to the BIFR and these reports are scrutinised closely and action initiated

wherever necessary. In cases where the progress is unsatisfactory, the BIFR may declare the scheme 'failed', after giving an opportunity of being heard to all concerned.

References received by BIFR are scrutinised closely by its Registrar before registration and a company is declared sick only after giving a personal hearing to all concerned and taking into account inter alia the financial position as brought out by the audited balance sheet of the concerned company.

Funds from NRIs for Nedumbasseri Airport

1599. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cochin Airport Development Authority has collected funds from the Non-Resident Indians for setting up a new Airport at Nedumbasseri in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the amount collected so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Kochi International Airport Society has so far collected Rs. 3,000,21,156/-.

Trade with Russia

1600. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman and Chief Coordinator of the International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Russia has visited India;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any trade agreement has also been signed between both the countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Mr. A. Volsky, Chairman and Chief Coordinator of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Russia was invited to visit India from 15.12.1995 to 19.2.1995 under the ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation) programme.

(b) During the visit, Mr. Volsky met officials in some Ministries of Government of India as also the representatives of Indian industry and trade. During the in-depth and extensive interactions Mr. Volsky had, ways and means of increasing Indo-Russian trade were discussed.

(c) and (d) No fresh agreement at the inter-Governmental level was signed during the visit. A Memorandum of understanding was however signed between Confederation of Indian Industries and the Russian Union of Industrialists and entrepreneurs. The MOU envisages that the two organisations shall regularly exchange economic and other information in terms of development and further expansion of trade, economic,